



*The Governor's Office of
Disability Affairs presents*

The 2008 GOLD Awards

The 2008 Governor’s Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards

The 2008 Distinguished Merit Award

This award is given in public recognition of extraordinary service by an individual, organization, or firm working in the disability field that has consistently presented opportunities in Louisiana for persons with disabilities to utilize their capabilities in achieving full participation in society.

- ✧ Expanding educational opportunities.
- ✧ Improved access to housing, buildings, and transportation.
- ✧ Greater participation in recreational, social and cultural activities.
- ✧ Greater opportunities for employment.
- ✧ Expanded and strengthened rehabilitation programs/facilities.
- ✧ Increased application of technology on behalf persons with disabilities.
- ✧ Purposeful application of biomedical research aimed at conquering major disabling conditions.

2008 Family of the Year

The Family Award is given in recognition of a family who has a member or members with disabilities, who by their involvement in the community and their mutual support of one another are an example of courage, strength and unity for other families in Louisiana. All forms of families from foster to single parents are encouraged to apply.

- ✧ Meeting the challenges of one or more disability.
- ✧ Maintain outstanding efforts in achieving a dynamic and cohesive family unit.
- ✧ Recognize the contributions of each family member.
- ✧ Participation in community and faith-based organizations.
- ✧ Recognized by others in the community for quality of family life, and participation in the community.

The 2008 Youth of the Year Award

The Youth of the Year Award is given in recognition of a young person with a constant disability who has, by example of achievement provided encouragement and inspiration to other young people with or without disabilities.

- ✧ An Individual between 13-19 years of age.
- ✧ Demonstrated outstanding and/or unusual achievement.
- ✧ Persistence and initiative in dealing with his/her disability.
- ✧ Contributed toward increased awareness for persons with disabilities.
- ✧ Participated in activities for the benefits of persons with disabilities.

The 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award

Recognizes extraordinary service by an individual who has enhanced opportunities for persons with disabilities.

- ✧ An individual that has shown outstanding service through their commitment to persons with disabilities.
- ✧ Must be non-professional employed.

2008 Employer of the Year Award

The Employer of the Year Award recognizes outstanding achievement in providing real employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

- ✧ Hires personnel with disabilities as regular practice.
- ✧ Accommodates persons with disabilities in the workplace.
- ✧ Promotes persons with disabilities when appropriate
- ✧ Pays equitable wages to all staff.

The Ken Vince 2008 Memorial Award

Ken Vince was a rehabilitation counselor who touched the lives of hundreds of people in Louisiana through his dedication of advocating for persons with disabilities and by dispelling public misinformation regarding disability issues. His commitment to the disability issues generated a greater public awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities and fostered a greater participation in society for the disability community.

- ✧ A man with disabilities recognized for his leadership abilities and achievements as a disability advocate.

2008 Media Award

The 2008 Media Award is given in public recognition of outstanding coverage of concerns and issues relevant to persons with disabilities. All forms of media are welcomed. Media projects nominated should include coverage of the accomplishments of people with disabilities, their families, advocates helping in crisis situations, state or federal legislation, special projects, or other news worthy events regarding disability issues. Either a news agency, broadcasting team or an individual who works in the media industry may be nominated for this award.

- ✧ People First Language.
- ✧ Accuracy and depth of coverage.
- ✧ Timeliness of coverage presented of persons with disabilities.
- ✧ Constant commitment of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- Nomination Packet must include the following:**
- ✧ A completed nomination form
 - ✧ Letter of nomination describing the nominee’s achievements and contributions incorporating the criteria listed.
 - ✧ Letters of support from others (optional)

The 2008 Patsy Barrett Memorial Award

Patsy Barrett was a woman with disabilities who was also a human rights activist. She initiated the Governor’s Award Event in 1982 to recognize those people who work for equality, justice and dignity for persons with disabilities. Patsy was also involved in policy development at the national level and she worked with Justin Dart and national leaders who helped formulate the Americans with Disabilities Act into Federal Law.

- ✧ A woman with disabilities recognized for her leadership abilities and achievements as a disability advocate.

2008 Service Animal of the Year

- Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that the individual with a disability cannot perform for him or herself. Some examples include:
- ✧ Alerting persons with hearing impairments to sounds.
 - ✧ Pulling wheelchairs or carrying and picking up things for persons with mobility impairments.
 - ✧ Assisting persons with mobility impairments with balance.
 - ✧ Outstanding service animal that assist his or her owner in their day-to-day activities.
 - ✧ The Service Animal must be certified and qualified by an accredited institution.
 - ✧ Both owner and service animal have demonstrated perseverance in barriers that they face.

Submit the Nomination Packet to:
Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs
Attn: Nomination Committee
150 Third Street, Suite 129
Baton Rouge, LA 70801